

# TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 6, Issue 3

Carol Walker, Editor

August 2012

## Upcoming events:

- August 19<sup>th</sup>—Quarterly Meeting
- August 25<sup>h</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>—Museum Open House
- September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>—Museum Open House
- October 21<sup>st</sup>—Annual Italian Feast

## Inside this issue:

Thanks to Supporters	2
Activities	3
What's in a Name?	3

ALPINE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 382  
ALPINE, CA 91903-0382

## Essay Contest Winners—Alpine History Day 2012

The weather could not have been more perfect when the crowd gathered to celebrate Alpine History Day on June 2, 2012. Third grade students and their parents and teachers came to recognize all the students who participated in the annual Alpine Historical Society Essay Contest and to

present awards to the winners.

A scrumptious lunch of home made chili, salad, bread, cold drinks and ice cream sundaes was served. This is one of the Historical Society's biggest fundraisers each year and allows the society to con-

tinue its work in the preservation of Alpine's history.

Winners of this year's essay contest for the category "Life in Alpine's Past" were: Hunter Wymore, first place, Evelyn Whyte, second place and Gabby Setting, third place. *(continued on page 2)*

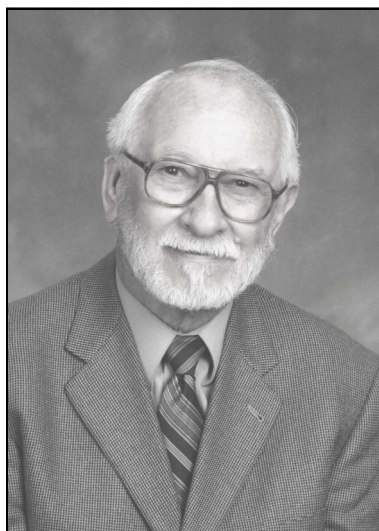


Student and Dad check out winners.



The crowd gathers for the award ceremony.

## LELAND FETZER AUGUST FEATURED SPEAKER



Leland Fetzer

The quarterly potluck meeting of the Alpine Historical Society will be held on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard.

Leland Fetzer, noted local author and speaker, will be the featured speaker at this meeting. Mr. Fetzer will talk about how the place names in San Diego County were influenced by the earliest peoples and the later settlers. Each wave of immigrants left its mark in history by putting place names on the map.

Leland Fetzer, who spent thirty years as a San Diego

State University professor, was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. The son of a part-time mine owner, he retired from teaching and built a home in Julian's North Peak, a subject he explored in his collection of essays, *A Year in the Cuyamacas*. He is a popular speaker who lives with his wife in San Diego and Julian.

Please RSVP to Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 or e-mail [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org) if you will be attending this worthwhile event. Plan to enjoy the potluck or come just for the speaker at 2 p.m.

Hope to see you on the 19<sup>th</sup>. ■

## Thanks to Supporters

Many thanks to all our dedicated members who have recently joined, renewed their memberships and made monetary contributions! These contributions are critical to the continuance of our efforts to preserve the history of Alpine.

Welcome to new members Alpine Paving, Sallie Brown, Rita David, Judy Grant, Tom Kuwazaki of

LHTC Lutheran Church, Joseph Markowicz, Robert Wayne Martin, Gary Mitrovich, Lori Mitrovich, Betty Nelson/Jenson, Linda Peterson, Louise Phipps, Marion Roberts, Vonnie Sanchez, and Hillary Sweeney. Thanks to renewing members James and Cheryl Minshew, Jack and Judy Nichols, Dick Rabell, Gary and Sue Smith, Margaret Smith and

Joanne Talamantes.

Generous donations were also received from George Barnett, David Carey, Eileen Hultz, Louise Phipps, Helen Porter, Marion Roberts and Don Walker. These donations are very much appreciated and are used wisely.

It is extremely rewarding to see so many new members

this quarter. Now that you have joined, please consider lending a hand to help preserve our local history. There are many and varied tasks available and volunteers are encouraged and appreciated. This is such a wonderful group of people and your efforts would be welcomed. Please contact Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 if you'd like to help in any way. ■

## Essay Contest Winners—Alpine History Day 2012 *(continued from page 1)*

For the category "My Favorite Historical Person in Alpine," the winners were Ally Fuller, first place, Gage Mowery, second place and Derek Hoyt, third place. In the category "My Favorite Historical Place in Alpine," Cassie Anderson took the first place award and second and third places went to Joey Giacinto and Grace Heller.

Many students submitted wonderful and creative entries. Honorable mention awards for art were pre-

sented to Cristina Quintero, Jaylee Crabb, Ryan Talada, Cassie Anderson, Samantha Fritz, Ally Fuller, Alexis Yankopoulos and Amanda Wilson.

Honorable mention for Creative Essay Format was presented to Marilee Staufenbeil and Riley Davidson received an award for Combined Art and Writing Voice.

Congratulations to all Alpine's third graders who competed in the essay con-

test—the entries were remarkable.

All Alpine third grade students also were provided the opportunity to tour the two pioneer houses of the Alpine Historical Society while studying a unit on local history. The docents enjoy these tours every bit as much as the students.

Many thanks to Vikki Coffey for serving as Chair of the Essay Contest again this year and to Jill Sing and

Judy Matlock for coordinating the food donations and serving the food.

The day was made even more special with Joan Waterworth at the organ and Barbara Hendrix singing wonderful old favorites during a sing-along.

This event was made possible by major sponsors Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Chris Wiley of Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc. and SDG&E, a Sempra Energy utility. Thank you! ■



**Photos of Alpine History Day 2012**  
courtesy of Lori Bledsoe.

**Left: Anne Tarr demonstrates a treadle sewing machine to a student in the Dr. Sophronia Nichols House.**

**Right: One of the students examines an old bee hive in the Captain Adam Beaty House.**

**Everyone enjoyed the wonderful new displays in Dr. Nichols' Carriage House. If you haven't seen them, plan to attend the next open house (the last Saturday and Sunday of each month from 2—4 p.m.).**



## June and July—Busy Months for AHS

In addition to coordinating all the activities for Alpine History Day, Alpine Historical Society's President Carol Morrison has been busy with other community projects during June and July. Just a few of these are detailed below.

Private museum tours for residents of La Vida Real

Retirement Home and an Alpine Family were held. Carol provides a wonderful narration of the history of Alpine, and the society's pioneer homes, during these tours.

Carol has also been working on research projects for the Alpine Cemetery, Veteran's of Foreign Wars, and

is working with Corinne Lewis of Alpine Elementary School and Lonnie Brooks performing research for a book.

The Historical Society also participated in Alpine's First Annual Honey Festival on July 7, at Christ the King Episcopal Church. A display was presented by soci-

ety members and included a replica of John Harbison's California Hive and bee-keeping equipment and information.

Anyone interested in Alpine's history, or in scheduling a private tour of the museums, should contact Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 to schedule a time. ■

## What's in a Name? *By Albert Simonson and Carol Morrison*

After Sherman's Civil War marched through Georgia, George and Nellie Webb left their plantation for a new life in California's gold country.

While completing the grading for the Julian-Banner Toll Road in 1871, George learned of a practical route from the mines to San Diego. With seventeen men, he graded the San Diego-Julian Toll Road, effectively determining the site of future Alpine. Since the time of presidio explorers, segments had been called "Camino de Secuan," "Camino de la Sierra," "road to Williams rancho"

and the "Jackass Mail Trail." In the 1850s, this area had been the vast grain and cattle rancho of "Cockney" Bill Williams and "The Saint" Aguirre.

At the location of Shadow Hills Elementary School in Harbison Canyon, then called Oak Grove, George Webb established his "Alpine Ranch," and built the "Alpine District" first schoolhouse for their six children on the ranch. The new "Alpine" name became notorious with the killing of a Frenchman by George's son at a midnight rendezvous with the fashionable new schoolmarm, Emma

Everhart, in 1875. The son was exonerated.

The Webbs moved on to Sweetwater Valley, then to Arizona to build the Gila Canal. Portions of their toll road remain, to recall for us this dynasty of ambitious, trigger-quick men and their beautiful, resourceful women. Descendants still live in the San Diego area.

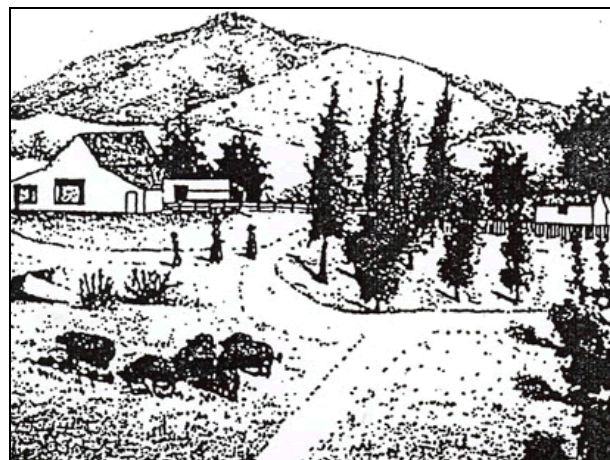
What is now downtown Alpine was settled in 1872 by the industrious Nick Overmeir, who took over maintenance of the road with his eight-mule team. It was on his ranch that the first Alpine store, post office

and stage station were built (behind the present post office). Nick baled hay and planted fruit trees and vineyards.

With the establishment of the post office, this place, known in mission and rancho days as Mesa del Arroz and Valle de las Viejas, became officially "Alpine." the airy new name, coinciding with a tuberculosis epidemic, drew patients from near and far. "Best Climate in the U.S.A. by Government Report." Picking a marketable name like "Alpine" was a great idea! ■



An old road in San Diego County.  
Photo from San Diego Historical Society Collection.



A lithograph depicting Nick Overmeir's ranch  
In early Alpine.

Alpine Historical Society  
P. O. Box 382  
Alpine, CA 91903-0382  
Address Correction Requested

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ALPINE, CA  
91901  
PERMIT NO. 18

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send notices via: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (Please check one):

Student \$5                       Family \$35                       Business \$50  
 Senior \$15                       Nonprofit Org. \$30                       Business Life \$1,000  
 Individual \$25                       Life \$500

Amount Enclosed:

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest for Volunteers:

Building Preservation  
 Technical/Clerical  
 Where Needed

Please complete this form and include your check payable to the Alpine Historical Society, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

ALPINE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

2116 Tavern Road  
P. O. Box 382  
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Phone: 619-659-8740  
E-mail: [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org)

We're on the Web!  
[www.alpinehistory.org](http://www.alpinehistory.org)